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OLC 71-1011

23 September 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Carl Marcy, Chief of Staff, Senate
Foreign Relations Committee, Regarding Request
for National Estimates on Southeast Asia

1. This afternoon I met with Mr. Marcy to discuss Senator J. W. Fulbright's request to the Director for National Intelligence Estimates and Special National Intelligence Estimates on Southeast Asia and Vietnam from 1947 to date. I told Mr. Marcy that I was reasonably sure this was something we simply couldn't do, and he said he was not surprised. He suggested a compromise solution involving only a limited number of Estimates dealing with certain specific subjects and within a more limited time period. I said this would hardly solve our problem either, but there must be some way of skinning the cat without getting blood on the rug. I said, off the top of my head, I thought we might have a better chance of finding an amicable solution if they wouldn't ask for National Estimates, but simply give us some specific questions regarding the Agency's position on certain matters at certain periods in the history of the Southeast Asian developments. He said this was worth considering and we might consult our principals regarding this and other possible suggestions and be back in touch next week.

2. In response to my question, Mr. Marcy said the Committee was trying to get a balanced picture of the history of Southeast Asian developments, and had the 47 volumes of the "Pentagon Papers" as a starting point, but was not satisfied that these would present a complete or balanced record. They wanted to be sure that their conclusions were based on all available relevant material, including intelligence information and Estimates. In this connection, he said they wanted to examine the "input" to the decision making process during the period in question,

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and ascertain which reports and recommendations were objective, which were the product of "self-deception" especially by the military, and which ones appear to have the greatest impact on policy formulation. As an example, he quoted from one of the volumes of the "Pentagon Papers" picked up at random (Volume 16, page 36) referring to a memorandum from Sherman Kent to the Director.

3. Mr. Marcy said that Seth Tillman would be the chief Committee staff member conducting this study and we should eventually deal with him in the matter. He said the Committee had hired two younger additions for the staff, fresh from the academic world who didn't know much about Southeast Asia but were outstanding researchers. One of these is named Bob Biles who had just been cleared.

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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7. (Unclassified - JMM) Representative John Buchanan (R., Ala.) called to say he was particularly interested in the application of [redacted] and hoped we would give the case every consideration. He said he wasn't sure whether to talk to the Director or someone else about this but wanted to impress upon us the fact that this candidate was: a U.S. citizen, [redacted] he speaks many languages and has a burning desire to serve the Agency. I explained to Mr. Buchanan he could be sure the case would get every consideration but we were in an extremely tight personnel situation and it was very doubtful that we could do anything for him.

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8. (Unclassified - JMM) Called Mr. Chris Sylvester, in the office of Senator Milton Young, and explained that we have made every effort to find a place for [redacted] who had been strongly recommended by Senator Young, but unfortunately on assessment [redacted] simply didn't measure up to the one contract position where we thought we might be able to place him. For this reason, I thought it would be unfair to [redacted] and to the Agency to put him in a position where he couldn't perform satisfactorily. I said we would keep the case open and get in touch if and when the situation changes.

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9. (Confidential - JMM) Pat Holt, Consultant, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called to say he was taking off on Wednesday, 29 September to [redacted]

In response to my question regarding Senator Fulbright's letter to the Director requesting copies of our National Estimates on Southeast Asia, Holt said he was not involved in this but understood that Seth Tillman was handling the staff work, assisted by "two or three bright, young graduate students."

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25X1 10. (Secret - JMM) Met with Ed Braswell and John Goldsmith, of the Senate Armed Services Committee staff, who said they have further reason to believe that Senator Symington will concentrate his efforts regarding Laos on a bill limiting the amount of U.S. funds spent there, rather than

[redacted] Therefore, they would like us to provide, as back-up material for Senator Stennis' use in the Laos debates, some arguments emphasizing the serious consequences of any substantial cuts in funds for programs in Laos for which the Agency is responsible.

11. (Unclassified - JMM) In the absence of Senator Hugh Scott, I left with his secretary a message to the effect that the Director would be happy to have him visit Headquarters at his convenience and discuss his trip to the Soviet Union, and particularly his conversation with Suslov.

12. (Unclassified - JMM) Met with Carl Marcy, Chief of Staff, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, regarding Senator J. W. Fulbright's request to the Director for all our National Estimates on Southeast Asia since 1947. See Memo for Record.

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

cc:
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[redacted]
Mr. Evans
Mr. Houston
Mr. Goodwin
DDI
DDS
DDS&T
EA/DDP
OPPB

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